T.J. Masters

AP Literature and Composition

Portfolio

Explication Reflection

This was the paper that put everything that I have learned about poetry in the past. The assignment was to explain how the poetic devices—imagery, metaphor, symbolism, etc.—get across the overall theme or purpose of a poem. We had the option to choose a poem from *Perrine’s* or on a website called *Poetry180*. I decided to explore the website to see if I could find poems that are a lot easier for me to understand. I stumbled upon a poem entitled “Cartoon Physics, part I.” I am not entirely sure if there is a part II to this poem, but I enjoyed the first part so much that I will definitely look it up in the future. As with the Title Analysis paper, I feel that my success with writing a good paper was due to the fact that I like the material that I had to work with so much.

Because in almost everything single one of my reflections I figuratively kick myself over stupid mistake and procrastination, I decided to pay close attention to this paper in particular for I think it was the largest I’ve been assigned this semester. As for procrastination, I remember waking up at 4 a.m. (not intentionally) and, as a way to kill time before Panera’s opened for breakfast, I decided to begin outlining this paper. Drafting this, I determined this to be the most challenging paper I have yet to write. Part of it was the fact that I do not understand poetry and the other was the prompt. However, as soon as I asked my usual 300 questions, I was set on track. I feel bad for asking so many questions, but I feel that ensure success. While editing this paper, I paid close attention to comma errors and other punctuation mistakes that I commonly make. This paid off for I only had one skills page to write; not bad for the larges paper of the year.

Although I detest poetry with every fiber of my being, I actually enjoyed doing this paper. It reminded me of the good old days of junior year, because the format was similar to the tone, diction and syntax papers. Furthermore, I felt like I was being tossed into the deep end with poetry, which is exactly what I need to understand it. As a writer, there are always going to be things that I won’t always understand with first glance, and this paper is concrete proof of that. However, with proper analysis techniques, the utilization of multiple references, and, of course, questions, I feel that I have the potential to understand anything…in regards to writing or literature.